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HELLO. I'M SÉAMUS AND I'VE BEEN SAT OUT HERE IN MY GARDEN FOR 35 ISSUES NOW (SINCE MARCH 2013). I'LL COME IN WHEN MY WASHING IS DRY... WAIT... I DID HANG IT OUT, DIDN'T I?

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Pigalle Power

PARIS LES GUEUSES DE PIGALLE COACHES



What's your history? We're part of a roller skating club founded in 1913. The Paris Hockey Club (rink hockey, speed skating, etc) have practised roller derby since 2011. After Covid, the league was reformed with all new people, so today's team is nothing like it was before.

Have you played many overseas games? We've never played against an English team. Last year we went to Switzerland to play the Zurich BruiseZ, which was our first game outside of France.

Do you know much about the Brighton Rockerbillies? We'd never heard of them before the invitation, but we are thrilled to play them. Maybe we'll discover a type of derby very different from what we're used to. We looked at the rankings on Flattrackstats and see they are above us, so we expect this will be challenging.

Anything the crowd should look out from your team? We don't yet have a style defined by specific tactics, but like most French teams we try to play around with the pack to help our jammer through difficult walls, as well as speeding everything up to get a 1 or 2-point hit when it's jammer chasing jammer on the track.

Any off-track plans for this weekend? A nice brewpub for sure, vegan fish and chips, visiting the beach and a team photo at the Palace Pier.

Any message for Pigalle fans here today? We're delighted to be here, to share some derby good vibes with everyone, and hopefully all go together to infinity and beyond to the pub. Our motto is "In Gueuses we trust, to infinity and beyond to the pub." Please all yell 'in gueuses we trust' if we need some energy on track! TL



What does your name mean? Les Gueuses de Pigalle was chosen because it represents the Paris district we train in, Pigalle, which is by Montmartre and the famous Moulin Rouge. It's a neighborhood of artists, nightclubs and sex shops. The word 'gueuses' best translates as women of ill repute/scarlet women. Our name and logo speak of all those women who were so labelled because they danced extravagantly at a time when it was better to be discreet!

Time To Say Surrey

THE SURREY ROLLER GIRLS TEAM

So who are Surrey Roller Girls? We're a WFTDA-aligned derby team founded in 2011. Our home base is in Guildford (Surrey) but we also have members from Hampshire, Berkshire and London. We've been up and down in the rankings in British Champs/5NRD over the years and we're now building our team back up again post-Covid.

Your home venue (Guildford Spectrum) is iconic in roller derby, right? We've hosted so many amazing leagues/games and we're very lucky to have access to such a great venue. Of past events, Anarchy (hosted by the lovely London Roller Derby) is forever a highlight. More recently we hosted Team England for an England, Wales and Scotland triple header in preparation for the 2025 World Cup. This was major inspo for the league and led to skaters from across the UK descending on Surrey.

Have you faced a Brighton team before? Surrey's roster is relatively new so there isn't a lot of previous experience vs Brighton post pandemic, which is one reason why we are so looking forward to this match-up. Several Surrey members regularly officiate Brighton games, which is a testament to the Rockers being amazing hosts - with great snacks!

Do you know much about today's C-Side opponents? Not really. We are staunch supporters of challenge games/tournaments, so it's quite likely that our skaters have played alongside (and against) a fair few of Brighton C-Side at some point.

Anything the audience should look out for from the Surrey team? We have a few skaters making their open door debuts today, so be sure to give some extra love to Buns of Anarchy, Elbow Baggins and Whackoon!

Any other plans for your visit to Sussex? We heard that a chippy on Brighton beach and a dip in the sea is a rite of passage.

Any message for Surrey fans in today's Dolphin crowd? As always, thank you so much for your support, it really means the world to us! There are some very exciting things coming up in the next few months, so keep your eyes peeled on our socials #surreynotsorry TL




TURN LEFT ISSUE 35 | EDITED, DESIGNED & WHATEVERED BY ADAM PETERS | PHOTOS BY JOHN HESSE (ERD MAIN IMAGE & MOST ERD HEADSHOTS), MATHIAS DEHAUDT (PARIS & CAMA), MATTY GREEN (PSYCHO), JORGE DOS SANTOS (COVER TRACK TAPE & SWANN) AND THE BRIGHTON ROCKERS (COVER C-SIDE) | EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF OUR LOVELY INTERVIEWEES AND FAB ADVERTISERS!

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Turn Left

THE UNOFFICIAL BRIGHTON ROCKERS FANZINE AND WORLD'S LONGEST-RUNNING ROLLER DERBY MAG



YOUR FREE COPY WITH SKATER INTERVIEWS & MORE

The Room With Debut

A TRIO OF B OR C-TEAM DEBUTANTS PREVIEW THE ACTION

HOLY TRUCK!!! TALKS AMBITIONS

"Going from non-skater to playing in front of a crowd is a daunting task. My first open door game I was terrified. I'd spent so much time and effort trying to become the best skater I could. I'd played in a few closed door games, so I knew I could play the sport. Having experienced a lot of social anxiety in the past, playing in front of a crowd was a whole new challenge for me to overcome.

This summer's World Cup in Austria was amazing to watch. Four days of world class derby with around 25 Rockers up in the stands, screaming support for our fab teammates playing in various national teams.

It was so inspiring seeing what's possible at the upper levels of derby... Now to absorb and apply that to my own game!"



AVRIL LE MEAN TALKS ORIGINS

"I was in the crowd for the Rockers' A-team 5Nations event here at the Dolphin back in May. The Rockers lost that day to higher ranked Bristol, but played a great game and forced Bristol to really work for the win. As a team, Brighton looked like they were all in tune with each other, making the game flow beautifully.

I've watched and played derby for seven years and supported my children through the sport for longer. In the past, I had a great supper line-up (a derby five) with my three grown-up children and fiancée, but once my kids moved to other clubs, I lost that. Watching the Rockers play here in May reminded me of that amazing era.

I'm a C-Side debutant, but I have a fair bit of experience from Eastbourne Roller Derby, and today I will be putting my four months since joining Brighton (and getting to know everyone on C-Side) into practice. It's not always about turning up and having skills, but working with your team with the same energy and passion.

It wouldn't be as effective if we each did our own thing. We're really starting to develop an understanding of how we all work together." TL

RUSH PUPPY TALKS LOGISTICS

"This year, C-Side captain Punchline asked me to be vice-captain. We routinely meet to discuss ongoing support for our teammates and exciting new developments. These include pushing for a semi-permanent track at one of our practice halls; outdoor skating at the new roller rink by Hove Lagoon; marching together at Trans Pride Brighton; and hosting game-watching parties to reflect and bond with the rest of the team.

I anticipate being one exhausted puppy today! Not only is this my first B-team game, but as a B/C crossover I will be playing in both matches, although thankfully on a lower rotation [ie time on track] than usual. Having practiced with the Rockerbillies for some time, I know that the hits are harder, the reactions are quicker and we WILL chase you. PS Please chase me... I love playing chase! *wags tail in excitement*

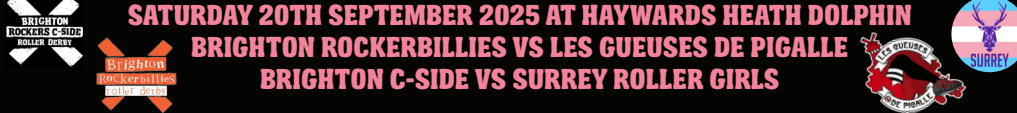
It's truly wholesome being part of such a wonderful derby league. PS Later this year, we visit Portugal for an A/B-team double header against Lisbon. Novembro dia 8! Vejo você lá?"



SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2025 AT HAYWARDS HEATH DOLPHIN

BRIGHTON ROCKERBILLIES VS LES GUEUSES DE PIGALLE

BRIGHTON C-SIDE VS SURREY ROLLER GIRLS



What's the most extreme thing that you have done to further your derby career?

Scooby Doom (Brighton): I'm not that extreme, although I mostly reschedule my whole life around derby training.

American Psycho (Surrey): *Actually exercising outside of derby? OK, so ballet classes are great for balance.*

Cama'sutra (Pigalle): Some things I never imagined I'd do for a sport include: Travelling to the other end of France to referee. Spending four days in a gym watching non-stop games during the World Cup. Going on holiday with my skates just in case. Driving seven hours to go to Nationals Championships for the weekend, then driving more than 24 hours back due to traffic. Wow!

SCOOPY DOOM



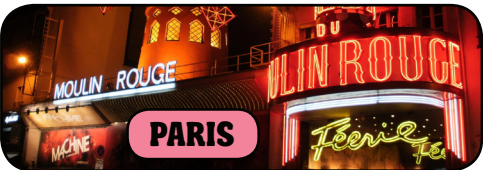
SEVEN LETTERS A RANDOM QUESTION CHALLENGE

What's the weirdest thing you've bought from the Middle of Lidl? Scooby: I've never bought anything from Lidl's middle aisle, so I've just popped in to see what all the fuss is about. I was tempted by the welding mask, I have to say. Psycho: *I bought a giant plastic skull from Sainsbury's, which my husband has now named as Boney Danza.* Cama: Two things. A complete tool kit, because roller derby is a sport where you need to know a bit about mechanics; plus a UV nail lamp, because beautiful nails are super important for cleaning your bearings, right?



Describe your own fictional derby nemesis. The Surprise Edger. Just when you think the path is clear, they fling themselves at you, usually butt first, knock you off, recycle you back and you have to start all over again. So frustrating! *As American Psycho my nemesis would be Maul Allen. They'd be impossible to out-juke, better at tactical jammer calls and (of course) have a more tasteful business card than mine.* Definitely a jammer, water element. Their name would be something like WaterLoo or Swampussy. Their favourite move would be to curl/coil up around me to distract me and then make a feint to the opposite side. A special attack would be the Apex. So annoying!

SOME 'TOTALLY TRUE' DERBY RELATED FACTS ABOUT



- The Pigalle district is named after a bloke called Al who rode a pig on roller skates around it in 1864.
- I'm using an AI fact generator here - please help!
- It's saying the Catacombs of Paris are haunted by ghosts of roller skating cats with well combed hair.
- Plaster of Paris used for broken limbs (eg derby injuries) is named after the Austrian city of Plaster?

So where would you most like to go on a skating holiday and why? Some of the provincial parks in Canada have forest ice trails that you can ice skate on. I'd love to do that as part of a holiday. *Somewhere that doesn't love cobblestones quite as much as England.* Pretty much anywhere without cobblestones. I've visited quite a lot of incredible skate parks in Portugal and the south of France. I'd love to try out the USA roller derby experience and some old school banked track skating, or somewhere super flat like canal paths in the Netherlands.

AMERICAN PSYCHO



CAMA'SUTRA



What's the worst thing you've been sent to the penalty box for? I never get sent to the box (pulls out halo). *It felt worst getting sent to the box for an 'out of play block' when I accidentally struck an opposing player by doing celebratory jazz hands at the end of the first jam in my first ever British Champs game.* A clockwise from another galaxy. Even whilst doing it, I can remember my brain screaming 'nooooo' at me... but it was too late. I was ashamed to even look at the referee who called the penalty.

What should a roller derby themed perfume be called and smell of? Salty by BRRD. Top notes of lemon and eucalyptus kit spray. Mid notes would be a blend of confidence, underlying anxiety and Pick 'N' Mix sweets. Bottom notes are the entire league's sweat combined with your own. *Eau De Pivotte. It smells strong but when you really need it, everyone keeps it from you.* From the perfume house of 'I'm a high-performance athlete', my new scent is called Real Sweat Baby. It smells like an elbow fold after a game. The bottle is shaped like an actual elbow pad, obviously.



So which random untracked statistic would you win at in a derby game? Number of times falling over nothing or whilst adjusting my pads. Most amount of direct eye contact with photographers in game photos. Longest amount of time a person whilst bridging shouts "Further, further, further. You can still block them!" **TL**



- Wokeness was invented in Woking (Surrey's true capital) in 1898 by tri-skating bankrupt Martians?
- I think this stupid AI programme is taking the pi-
- It now says the Magna Carta was signed in runny mead, which is basically melted honey? For real??
- what's this even got to do with roller derby now u can't skate on honey i totes give up #surreynotsorry



THE FINAL BOMBSHELL SEZ WHO, THE FAVOURITE & JOSEFIEND TALK EASTBOURNE

So who are you in derby right now? Sez Who: I'm the Brighton Rockers' head referee and I've been with the league for six or seven years now. *The Favourite: I've been with Brighton for three years. I'm currently A-team captain and I also bench C-Side.* Josefiend: I've been with the Rockers for 18 months, but I broke my wrist then had a baby, so maybe only eight months with Brighton on skates.

Who were you at ERD? Sez: I joined Eastbourne Roller Derby in 2012 or 2013. I wasn't a founder member, but I was part of their first intake. That's where I learned to play derby, having previously been to watch a Brighton game at the Rockers' long lost warehouse venue out in Shoreham. *Fave: I started with ERD in 2019. My sisters had been playing with New Bournes [ERD Juniors] for a couple of years and I was the last to get my skates on. We had a little area outside the back of our house, so we continued to skate and train during Covid.* Jose: So I joined Eastbourne in 2022, having moved back to the area (after living in London) post-Covid. I bought cheap skates from someone who took up skating during lockdown - then realised they didn't like it!

Eastbourne Roller Derby announced their closure on social media on 16th July. This was surprise to us. What about you? Not so much. Even though us three have been at Brighton for varying lengths of time, we have many friends at ERD and could see they have

been struggling to play any official games for a while now. It's a numbers thing. Skaters often switch to teams like Brighton, because they're close and the depth of the Rockers roster (A/B/C-teams) provides more opportunities for game time and development than Eastbourne could.

ERD played in Champs/5Nations far more than Brighton have [2015 & 2025 only].

ERD definitely took part in 2014 and 2015, and I believe also in 2018 and 2019. *My mum [Avril Le Mean] actually made her debut in a Champs game. Wow, it's quite a baptism of fire for rookies to go straight into something like that. Your mum was very brave. She'd just passed her minimum skills. With no B-team etc at Eastbourne, she was just told "there's an A-team Champs game and if you'd like to play, you can"... so off she went, bless her. A baptism of fire, indeed.*

Whilst the Rockers focused upon a strong WFTDA squad, Eastbourne added MRDA (Bomb S'Quad) and open to all (A-Bombs) teams. Why so? Again this was a numbers thing. They needed the membership. Men came along who wanted to play and were allowed to join. *There were a lot of partners of players sat watching and saying "I want to have a go."* Starting an MRDA team gave them flexibility. If they couldn't arrange a WFTDA game, they could field an all gender side against a co-ed team like Full Metal (Herts) instead.

Mister Adam Types Stuff

Every issue of Turn Left is jam-packed, but this one sees us bump major features (eg World Cup!) into future issues. We still talk to the amazing Brighton B/C-teams and their Parisian and Surreysian opponents, but rightly save a chunk of space for celebrating awesome Eastbourne Roller Derby, who shut down just a couple of months ago (with many players moving to Brighton). All hail ERD's legacy, but also as ever... **GO ROCKERS! TL**



RESULTS SINCE LAST ISSUE

10TH MAY @ HAYWARDS HEATH BRIGHTON A 121-172 BRISTOL A
14TH JUNE @ TOTTENHAM (LONDON) LRR B 226-189 BRIGHTON C

TODAY'S SCORE PREDICTIONS

Seriously? These teams are so new that any predictions as say 217-196 to Surrey, actual reality may be (it will) differ. of beating C-Side (328th) with a 31:28 split mathsing out 270-150 home win. Surrey (279th) are given 58% chance 87% of the time. Their 9:15 differential suggests maybe a think Rockerbillies (229th in Europe) beat Pigalle (339th) are likely to be total nonsense. If you insist: Flatcrackrats

ERD also launched New Bournes, a truly amazing juniors (age 9-18) league. There weren't many junior sides around then. New Bournes played Hereford Poison Berries about ten times in a row! Myself and Drag 'N' Fly set up the New Bournes as we both had kids who wanted to skate. Initially we went to Royal Windsor (who briefly had a juniors team) but why travel two hours each way to Saturday morning training? Between us and our friends, we had six or seven kids who wanted to play derby, so we decided to start our own team.

That's when my sisters Maisie and Bonnie joined. So again, they made up a little bit of the team. And then you guys just managed to produce really, really good skaters. They really were. Nearly all of them went off to the World Cup and were a quarter of the Team GB squad in Philadelphia in 2018, which was very cool.

Where do former New Bournes play now? Some of them played for Eastbourne or went to Brighton. A couple of the guys are now at Southern Discomfort. A lot have gone to university and are skating all around the country. There's a lot of conversations about university places versus where the nearest roller derby team is, and is that team good enough to go to that university for!

Some are doing brilliantly with London Roller Derby. A reason they often went to teams like Brighton when they reached 18 is they were already at too high of a level to progress via ERD. They needed to go to a team like Brighton with a big roster and high level A-team to push themselves forward to that next level. And even then, Brighton's just a stepping stone.

Given ERD's recent closure, have many adult skaters recently joined the Rockers? *They have. As one of the coaches, I often get asked about ERD transfers as I know many of them. Nowadays I get a lot of texts saying "hey, there's another Eastbourne person joining..."* A lot of ERD folk knew about the closure prior to Extreme, so the Rockers have had far more transfers than normal this year. It's usually fairly staggered, but this year almost a quarter of Brighton's C-team have arrived from ERD.

There's a lot of difference in ability in the skaters that come over from Eastbourne. With the Rockers' probation rules, you can't skate on a team for your first three months, then you generally join C-Side. Quite a few of the Eastbourne transfers, particularly recently, are above a C-team level. I think as the dust settles over time and people get shifted around a little bit, we'll see where in the A/B/C structure the various Eastbourne arrivals fit in best.



ERD have become widely known beyond UK (let alone Sussex) shores for putting on Eastbourne Extreme. What's that? An outdoor tournament on Eastbourne seafont. It's basically two days of challenge team fun, played in the sunshine and free for spectators. It's a community in itself. For some it's the derby event of the year, like Royal Ascot or whatever.

Some people play their very first rookie game at Eastbourne Extreme. I don't know why they would choose to do that, but they return the next year and it's really lovely to observe the progress that they have made. *There are no rankings. If you make a mistake, all that's at stake is your pride. So it's good fun from that point of view, because there's no pressure.*

There are plans for Extreme to continue annually. Any other legacy from ERD? Via the young players for sure. Many New Bournes are at university at the moment. Who knows what teams they might end up at in the future? You're already seeing some establish themselves on top rosters such as London Brawling or Southern Discomfort. ERD's legacy will be living on through them. **TL**

BOURNE TO PLAY DERBY REFLECTIONS FROM THE EAST



"As a founder member, ERD has been the entirety of my roller derby journey. I knew nothing about the sport, so it was a sharp learning curve, but the best thing I've ever done. Being part of the team got me through depression, break-ups, injury, and boosted my confidence no end. I became a qualified coach and loved training new skaters, many now playing for higher ranked sides. I'd never stuck with any sport for so long and ERD's closure was devastating for me. I've made so many friends and had so much fun over the years, from pram races and karaoke to Eastbourne Extreme, which I hope to remain involved with moving forwards." **LILY MALICIOUS, ERD FOUNDER MEMBER**

"I'm so proud that I was part of the New Bournes' journey. My biggest highlight was an exhibition game against Hereford Poison Berries at a London Roller Derby Anarchy event. Our kids played so well and it went down to the wire (literally, a one-point game). We'd brought them into derby and taught them the sport, and now they were playing it so amazingly in front of a massive crowd. Watching that match was immensely rewarding." **SEZ WHO, ROCKERS HEAD REF**



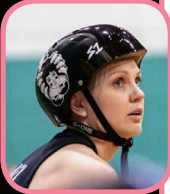
"ERD was a pivot point in my life. It introduced me to new people, a new sport and issues of gender, identity and understanding I had not encountered so much before. ERD gifted me the opportunity to find announcing and briefly skate alongside some of the best in the country. At a time I had neither, they gave me both purpose and a reason. I'm a better person as a result and will always love everyone that I've met through ERD." **TENACIOUS P, ANNOUNCER**

"I started out on my rookie journey at Eastbourne on borrowed skates from an ex-member. I've reflected a lot on that this year when I was lucky enough to be selected for a World Cup team [Italy]. Had I not started out with Eastbourne Roller Derby in 2019, I would never have taken part in this summer's World Cup, let alone enjoyed this past six amazing years of derby." **THE FAVOURITE, ROCKERS A-TEAM CAPTAIN**



"When I first joined ERD in 2011, I had no real clue how much derby would be taking over my life. From six hours per week of training to sneaking leopard print into nearly every outfit I wear, it's been wild! I've travelled to towns all over the country, but mostly just seen the inside of sports halls. The best part is coaching and watching skaters grow, especially when they then make it to national level. Being part of their journey is amazing. Now it's my turn to chase that goal." **BULLET BOMBER, ERD FOUNDER MEMBER**

"Being able to go to Copenhagen and skate in a Sevens tournament out there was a big highlight of my time with Eastbourne. I think that technically means ERD turned me into an actual international sports player, which is something I never expected I'd ever be able to say!" **JOSEFIEND, BRIGHTON C-SIDE**



"It was late 2011, I was 23, and ERD had all gone to watch London Brawling as our first 'proper' team outing to a game. I remember the chills I felt seeing them all skating out to The Clash's London Calling, thinking to myself: 'That's it. That's what I want to do'. ERD was only a short part of my journey, but it's where I fell in love with roller derby. Going to that first ERD session truly changed my life, and I'll always be grateful for the opportunities that I've had as a result of my time there." **SWANN, LONDON BRAWLING**